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Ontonagon

A Great Country for the Flock-
master, Herdsman and Farmer



Goat Raising in Northern Michigan.

BY COLONEL L. D. BURCH,
EDITOR "AMERICAN SHEEP BREEDER," CHICAGO.

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AN INVITING COUNTRY

FOR THE

Flockmaster, Herdsman and Farmer

From Marinette, on beautiful Green Bay, to Ontonagon, on Lake Superior, is only 175 miles via the Superior division of the CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY, but they are miles invested with such charms of landscape, wealth of forest, field, mine, orchard and garden, and such wondrous agricultural and pastoral resource that I am inclined to tell their story to the readers of the American Sheep Breeder. And the more so because I have been often urged to the pleasant task by flockmasters of the middle and western states eager for knowledge of cheap grazing lands under promising conditions of climate and soil, social and industrial development. Everybody has heard and thousands can testify from delightful experience of this upper lake region, that

THE SUMMER CLIMATE IS IDEAL—

that never a breath of malaria has swept this north country; that the air is laden with the odor of hemlock, pine, cedar, spruce, balsam, fir and balm of Gilead, borne on life-giving

breezes from the great lakes, that northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan are a great natural sanitarium where the old grow young, the weak grow strong and rejuvenation comes to all, but not every one can bear testimony to

AN Equally Enjoyable Winter Climate,

because not everyone has passed a winter where the snow falls in December and remains till early April; where there are no blizzards, no January thaws, no winter rains, no sleet, slush or mud, no radical changes of temperature, but 70 days of reliable business sleighing with sleigh bells ringing, frost in the air, the lumbermen in the woods or on the road, the mercury close around zero and the crisp, balmy air laden with ozone and bringing super-abounding health, spirit, vigor and tone to men and animals. This is the ideal winter without any intermingling of fall or summer, a season that everybody who has tested it enjoys to the full. I have never yet found a resident of this upper lake country



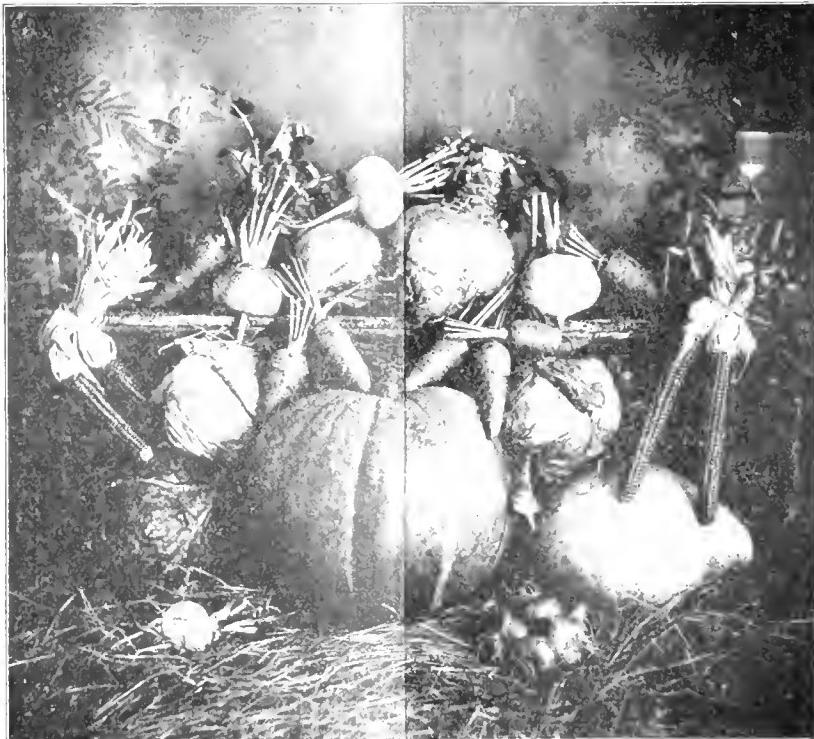
High Falls on Peshtigo River.

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

complaining of the rigors of winter, which is a far more delightful season here than in Chicago, Buffalo, New York, Boston or St. Louis, because uniform and always as enjoyable as it is healthful. Once or twice in the season a Manitoba wave will send the mercury down to 25 below zero for four or five days, when it may be 30 below in Omaha, Kansas City, Chicago or Toronto. The country I am writing about has

A MATCHLESS WATER SUPPLY.

There is nothing like it -nothing so beautiful or perfect between the two oceans. Every way one looks or drives are



Eagle River Dairy Farm Products, Marinette County.

leaf lakes, solitary, or in groups and chains, all fed by inlets or spring brooks and presenting a beautiful and continuous water system by connecting inlets or outlets. These lakes may be acres or miles in extent, but everywhere they are clear as amber, generally deep and always cold as the regal springs that feed them. And the rivulets and brooks, and rushing, rapid rivers, born of the thousands of modest or magnificent springs, are everywhere from busy Marinette to the southern shores of Lake Superior.

A LABYRINTH OF BRIGHT WATERS

touching or reaching into every half-section or quarter section of land and furnishing every ranch, farm home or cabin an everlasting supply of pure, cold, living and running water. These lakes and springs and streams are the glory of the country and the pride of the settlers. Next to the

NATIVE AND DOMESTIC GRASSES

that cover millions of acres of the cut-over and burnt-over grass country, the former embracing a dozen varieties of hay grass growing in swarthy luxuriance on the wild beaver meadows, which are dominated by the tall and tender "blue joint." The wild grasses of the uplands probably number thirty or more varieties, including the highly prized white clover and blue grass, both of which are indigenous to the country, and the tall, magnificent "blue stem" of the prairies, the bunch grass of the plains and mountains, the much-prized Grama grass of the Western ranges and short, sweet

buffalo grass, with no end of other grazing herbage, including the wild pea vine, oat and rye grasses. Intermixed with these wild grasses and growing rank along the railways, the public roads, the old lumber trails, in the glades, intervals, lumber camps and cut-over lands, are the red and alsike clovers, timothy and orchard grass, scattered by the birds and animals, and all tracing back to the baled hay of the lumber camps. In many places these domestic grasses completely possess the land and may be cut for hay. Supplementing these grasses are an endless variety of wild browse, most of it sappy, succulent and nutritious and very fattening to sheep, goats, cattle and the wild deer that feed upon it with great relish. The bulk of all this splendid herbage is now unutilized and

GOING TO WASTE

for want of stock to feed it off. There is enough of this

priceless herbage in a single county, now going to feed the elements, to summer graze from 200,000 to 250,000 sheep and goats, or from 15,000 to 20,000 cattle without interference with present farm operations. And this within 12 and 15 hours by rail of the greatest beef and mutton market of the world, while millions of sheep and hundreds of thousands of cattle are famishing for fresh, green pastures like these. Except for the fact that these magnificent open grazing fields are located in

A PASTORAL TERRA INCOGNITA,

of which the Western stockman sees and knows nothing, this waste of pastoral wealth would seem prodigal and



Oat Field in Marinette County, on Skidmore Lands.

criminal. It must be remembered that good Mother Nature has provided these rich grazing grounds with nothing more than the incidental help of man, and that with munificent hand she gives the rains and dews and sunshine to keep them

IN LIVING GREEN THROUGH ALL THE YEAR—

in summer with the rains and dews and sunshine that have never yet failed, and in winter under a mantle of snow that warms and freshens them for grazing as soon as the snow disappears. I have watched these beautiful pasture lands for the last four seasons and never yet saw them brown from heat and drought. All through this north country

THE RAINFALL NEVER FAILS,

but is as reliable as the tides. Rain makes grass and grass gives pastoral wealth far and away greater than any other rural resource. Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Pen-

insula of Michigan constitute the banner grass and hay country of America and, for that matter, of the world, and long ago should have been designated on the map and immortalized in song and story as

CLOVERLAND,

or grassland. It passes belief how the clovers and grasses grow in these strong, retentive, moist and matchless soils. I have myself sown clover in both upper Wisconsin and upper Michigan for the last four years, not pounds, but bushels of it—red and alsike clover—and apparently never lost a seed. The growth of clover is enormous and the plant never fails of two crops in a season. There is no such

clover country between Boston harbor and the Golden Gate. I have scattered seed from March to August in oats and peas, fodder corn and even on the unbroken wild land among the brush and browse and never failed of a stand. Clover never winter-kills in this region. Never "heaves out" or freezes out. It sleeps under the snow and comes out in early April, green and fresh, a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It will hold its own with timothy, red top or any hay grass, reseeding itself, and like Tennyson's brook, "goes on forever." All this will seem strange talk to the farmers of the older states, but it is true as holy writ.

HAY FARMING

is immensely profitable in this northern country where timothy hay finds a ready market in the towns and lumber camps at \$14 to \$15 per ton and the new settler can pay for a new farm with the first crop of hay, or for an older farm

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

in cultivation with the first three crops harvested. An average crop of timothy is two tons per acre—often more, and the first two crops of hay will pay for a new farm and the additional cost of clearing the land. I know of no other country where this can be attempted without some risk of failure, of which there is none whatever here. Hay farming, however, is, in the long run, unprofitable, for it is a heavy draft even upon the richest lands where nothing is given back for replenishment of the soil. From the foregoing notes the clear sighted reader will conclude that I am writing of

A ROYAL STOCK COUNTRY,

and that is pre-eminently what this whole region is, beginning with Marinette county, Wis., and ending with Onton-

agon county, in upper Michigan. Where grasses grow with amazing spontaneity and luxuriance, never failing for want of moisture; where the clovers roll up two full rank crops; where oats and peas grow in combination into three and four tons of hay to the acre; where all the root crops yield enormously and where grazing is good from the 15th of April to the 20th of November, and the winter feeding season is not a day longer than in lower Michigan, northern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio; where the waters are pure and plentiful; and the grasses as nutritious and fattening as anywhere on earth, there is where cattle and sheep—men and horses will flourish and make wealth for the soil and good bank balances for the farmer. Do I think this



Native Blue Stem Grass at Intervale.

is a county, in upper Michigan. Where grasses grow with amazing spontaneity and luxuriance, never failing for want of moisture; where the clovers roll up two full rank crops; where oats and peas grow in combination into three and four tons of hay to the acre; where all the root crops yield enormously and where grazing is good from the 15th of April to the 20th of November, and the winter feeding season is not a day longer than in lower Michigan, northern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio; where the waters are pure and plentiful; and the grasses as nutritious and fattening as anywhere on earth, there is where cattle and sheep—men and horses will flourish and make wealth for the soil and good bank balances for the farmer. Do I think this

A GOOD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNTRY?

Yes, never a better! First of all there are numerous small flocks of sheep and goats in this region and almost without exception they are in prime condition, not only showing "bloom" most of the year, but giving from 90 to 155 lb. lamb crops. I saw a flock of 18 sheep and lambs in Menominee county, Mich., last week, built up from

lambs that I raised in that neighborhood four years ago, that were fat enough for block or show, and did not know the taste of grain. There are small flocks of Shropshires in Ontonagon county that have given 180 per cent lamb crops and though mainly wintered on wild hay are always fit for mutton or show. Mr. Walter Prickett has kept Angora goats and Shropshire sheep at Sidnaw, in Houghton county, for several years with profit and satisfaction. Hon. Isaac Stephenson of Marinette and Hon. Sam Stephenson of Menominee have prosperous and profitable small flocks of sheep and Angoras as they have herds of cattle and horses. There are several good sized flocks of sheep running on the open range in Marinette county that are reported as doing exceedingly well. And the wonder is that train loads of

SHEEP FOR SUMMER GRAZING

are not brought into this territory in spring for lambing, then summer-grazed and shipped to Chicago in the fall. Happily a break has recently been made in this direction by a Wyoming ranchman who shipped 3,200 range sheep to Grand Rapids, Wood county, Wis., to be reshipped to market as grass fed muttons in the fall, the St. Paul road bringing them in from Omaha early this month. While at Sidnaw last week I met Mr. W. D. Cook, a well-known eastern Colorado sheepman, who had selected 640 acres of cut-over land near that village as a permanent sheep ranch for his son, who will bring 1,000 Colorado ewes to begin with and enlarge the flock as soon as he can break land and raise clover for wintering. Mr. Cook says he never saw so fine a grass country as this along the St. Paul road, nor a country so well suited for feeding sheep and lambs for the mutton market, and he predicts the building up of

A GREAT SHEEP AND LAMB FEEDING INDUSTRY along this St. Paul road, both on account of the superior water and cheap grazing and the enormous crops of oats,

barley, peas, wheat and roots that are so cheaply grown here. The only unsolved problem of sheep keeping in this country on a large scale, is the immediate want of winter feed, such as clover hay, oats, fodder corn, pea hay and roots and the utilization of the wild grasses of the beaver meadows. This problem, however, may be easily solved by the facility with which the cut-over lands may be broken and sown with these heavy producing winter hay crops, all of which may be seeded down to clover the first season, after which the clover fields are adequate for all needs and emergencies. These cut-over lands are

A GOAT RAISER'S PARADISE,

and for this growing industry present the finest field in America. Sweet, sappy, fattening browse in almost infinite

THE SUMMER GRAZING OF CATTLE,
a favorite industry with many stockmen. Cattle grow and fatten on these grasses with wondrous facility and like the wild deer of these woods, come out in the fall as sleek and fat as seals. The grass keeps green and succulent all the season through, and even the town cows are fat enough for beef in November. The brush and cedar swamps afford a grateful refuge from the flies in the heat of the day, the pure water and invigorating air gives the cattle appetite and tone and the young steer, or dry cow, comes off with 250 or more pounds of additional flesh in the fall. There is

NO END OF IDEAL CATTLE RANCHES

for the summer grazier all through the country tributary to the St. Paul line from Ellis Junction to where Ontonago



The Angora in Northern Michigan.

variety offers a tempting field for the Angora breeder. The goat is the best and quickest civilizer of raw brush land and like sheep, is a wonderful fertilizer of the soil. Confined within goat proof enclosures for two seasons, he kills out the scrub root and branch, leaving behind him a sea of grass fit for the sheep, dairy cows, feeding cattle, or the plow. During this brief period he has worked for nothing and boarded himself, besides turning off two crops of kids and mohair. A flock of 100 Angoras, or common goats, are worth more in clearing up new brush land than the best woodsman that ever wielded an axe, and the writer has pleasure in saying that the region herein reviewed would subsist all the 2,000,000 goats—Angoras or common goats now in the United States, without consuming a blade of all the superlative grasses now growing on these cut-over lands. The goat is a browser, not a grazer, and rarely eats grass except by compulsion. He is therefore the greatest civilizer of a new wooded country and as such cannot be too highly regarded. There is another department of stock-farming for which this region is pre-eminently suited, even in this early pioneer stage, and that is

gon looks out upon the blue waves of Superior. I could locate hundreds of them by the springs and trout brooks and lakes of central and northern Marinette county, just across the river in Menominee county, Mich., and other hundreds in Iron, Baraga, Houghton and Ontonagon counties, Mich., and

NOT ONE IN AN HUNDRED IS UTILIZED

for this seductive, entertaining and profitable business. It is simply the purchase of feeders at the Chicago yards in the spring, running them from May to November, inclusive, and returning them to Chicago fat and quickly salable as grassfeats in late November. The few experiments of summer grazing so far made, have been fruitful of good results and all that is needed to inaugurate a big movement in this direction is to secure encouraging freight rates from and to Chicago, a proposition which the railway people are pretty sure to favor. And there is

THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE

of the country which I am feebly sketching, and which to the variety farmer will have special significance. In

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

briefly outlining the possibilities of this fertile and fruitful country for special stock farming or ranching I have not told the reader that it is one of the best all-round farm regions in the United States, a statement easily verified by a visit to the country. There is not a region or district in all the country of more

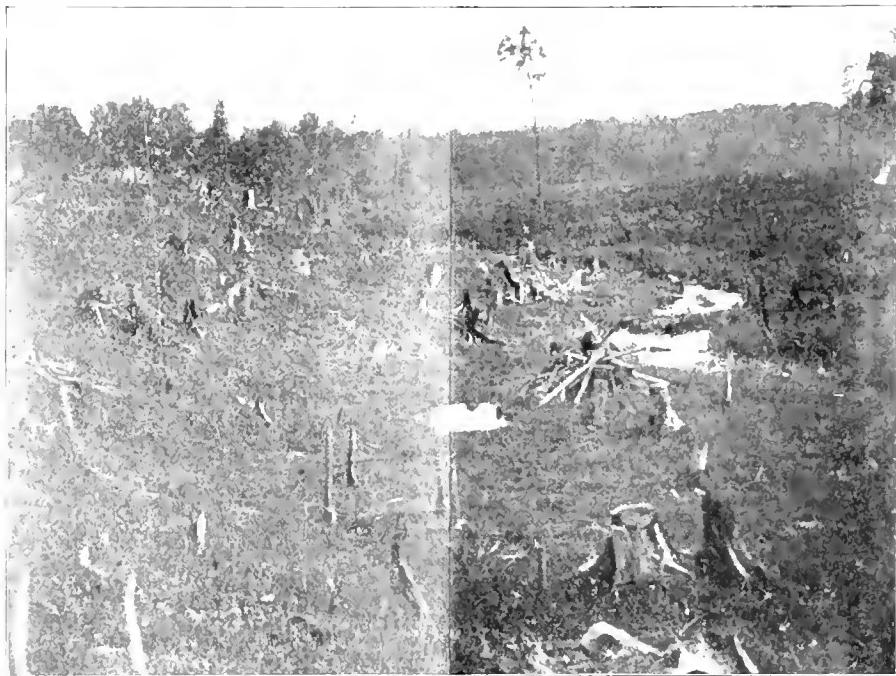
VERSATILE SOILS AND BOUNTIFUL PRODUCTION

than the counties herein reviewed. The lands differ in kind and texture from the dark clay-loams of the hardwood districts to the lighter and less consistent sandy-loams of the pine tree districts, but everywhere they are retentive of moisture and fertilizers, always and everywhere respond-

plant growth are surprisingly rapid and the quality of the products surprisingly good. The rain falls during the growing season as if furnished in fulfillment of the farmers' needs and order, and nobody doubts that seed time will be followed by abundant harvests. This whole upper Wisconsin and Michigan country is

A VERITABLE SMALL FARMER'S PARADISE,

where may be grown about everything known to husbandry, and generous crops of it, too, with delightful assurance and certainty. Not only this but the farmer has here within his own territory and at his very door the finest farm produce market on the continent. A better market than



Cut-Over Land and Trout Brook "Loaded with Speckled Beauties."

to good treatment, and everywhere give not only glorious crops but

THE WIDEST RANGE OF PRODUCTION

known to the middle latitudes. Winter or spring wheat grow with equal facility, and yield bountiful crops. Barley is a certain and big crop. Oats give heavier yield here than in any country of my knowledge. Rye is an inferior crop and so are flax and buckwheat. All the early varieties of corn mature and yield well. Field peas do better than can in any other portion of the continent and a bean or imported pea is unknown. Beans do finely, cabbages, rape, turnips, mangolds, beets, carrots, parsnips, kale, potatoes, corn, sorghum and, indeed, every product of garden and field known to the temperate zone is raised here as in any part of America. And better, too.

NO CROP FAILURES

is recorded in this north country where vegetable

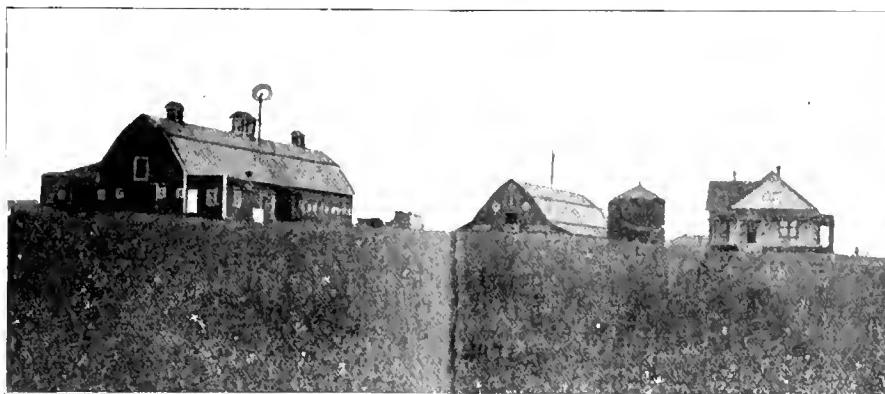
Chicago, New York or Boston, with little or no expense for transportation. In the iron and copper mines of the Lake Superior region are close to 200,000 of the best paid workers in the world and the best lives among the world's workers. In the woods and camps and lumber mills of this same region, are 50,000 more of the best paid woodsmen and mill men in the United States, and in the iron mills, pulp mills, tanneries, wood working factories, hotels, mercantile houses, banks, shops, fisheries and upper lake marine service close to 50,000 more wage earners who are better paid than in any other country. Ninety per cent of all the food stuffs consumed by this great army of men and their dependent families comes from outside, and must continue to do so for years to come. And that is why the farmers of this region have

THE BEST HOME MARKET IN THE WORLD

for everything the farm can produce. The market price of beef, pork, flour, poultry and dairy products, hay, grains,

vegetables and fruits is always high and the demand steadily increasing. Everything the farmer grows is eagerly picked up at his very door. The summer months bring to the hundreds of lakeside resorts in all this upper country at least 150,000 pleasure and health seekers and they must be fed upon the fat of the land. The new settler is to-

his chickens are plucking the white clover in his dooryard, his family are drinking from the purest and coldest of springs, he is master and monarch of 40 to 80 acres of land, a freeholder with his winter's supplies growing, he has no wood or coal to buy, no rent to pay and if he lacks cash to pay taxes or grocer's bills, he can get all the work he



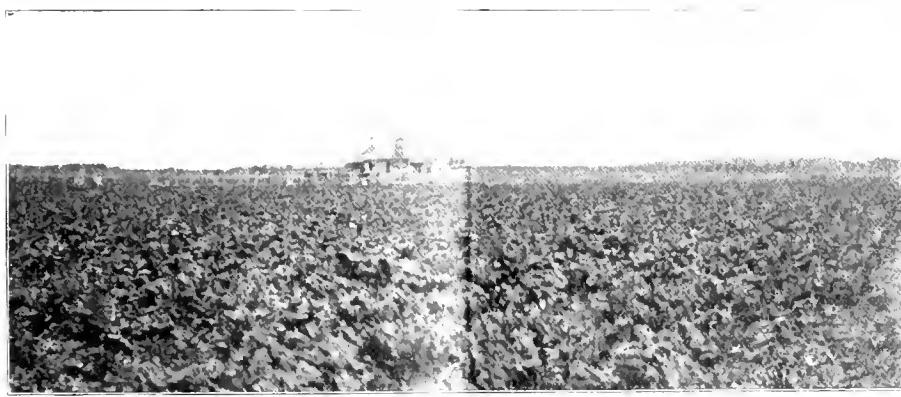
Dairy Farm near Ellis Junction, Wisconsin.

sieged with calls for his eggs, butter, poultry, garden products, milk, cream and other luxuries of garden and field and may make his own price for what he has to sell I know of

NO COUNTRY SO EASY OF SETTLEMENT

as this of which I am writing. The new settler if only he shall come in the early spring, may clear away the brush and build his log cabin from the cedar, tamarack, spruce or hemlock poles that are growing on his own land and in ten days be sleeping under his own roof-tree. Two

wants near home at the highest wage paid to common labor anywhere in the world. His services are worth \$30 or \$35 a month, including board, in any lumber camp or mill, and if he has a good team he can command \$75 a month and board for self and team for a month or six months at pleasure. No contingency or risk in all this, for nothing is more staple than labor at these prices. If, however, he is able to confine his services to his own land, he may cut his cedar and tamarack posts and poles, his maple timber into cord wood, his hemlock and birch and basswood into



Field of Sugar Beets on H. P. Bird Farm at Wausaukee.

weeks more will suffice to clear and break five or ten acres for potatoes, corn, and garden and by the middle of May he may have in a few acres of oats, peas, turnips and fodder corn, and all but the turnip and potato patches seeded down to clover. His cows are feeding on clover, timothy and bluegrass growing in profusion all around him

logs and his dead cedar into shingles, bolts and get good money for any of them at the nearest railroad station. At the end of the first year he is further advanced in the ways of independent living than the man on the prairie has less hardships to encounter, less risks to take and more substantial progress made. It is

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

THE BEST POOR MAN'S COUNTRY

I have ever seen or known, for here the workman always has his innings. His employer may be a millionaire lumberman or miner, but he himself is clothed in the dignity of a citizen sovereign whose calling and worth and personality everybody respects. No man so poor here but by the might of his strong hands and steady purposes he may become a freeholder, the owner of a 40 or 80-acre farm and in due time an independent farmer. Nature aids him with pure air, pure water, the growing grasses and normal health. Industry favors him with so many avenues of employment that he is never in doubt about the future. If he be level headed, determined and industrious he may aspire to ownership of a grain, fruit, dairy, poultry or sheep farm, for to him any or all of these is possible and any or all may be realized

clover. Where clover grows there are always

STRONG SANCTIONS TO RURAL INDUSTRY.

After the clover meadows come big crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn, buckwheat, peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, sorghum and now I may add, sugar beets, of which the farmers of Marinette and Menominee counties are growing thousands of acres to supply the 1,000 barrel beet sugar mill which will be in operation in Menominee the coming October. Here in

MARINETTE COUNTY

are the finest sugar beet fields I have seen in any of the noted sugar beet states, and it is not too much to claim for this county a degree of rural prosperity unexcelled by any county in Wisconsin. Here are scores of beautiful farms highly improved with buildings, orchards, fences and



Stump Blasting in Houghton County, Michigan.

in perfection. It is a poor man's country superlative because it is God's country where the humblest of his children may find ample recompense for living. From end to end this beautiful north country is

A LAND OF PROMISE,

where the poor man may grow rich through industry and thrifty management. It is a land of promise to the thousands of eastern sheepmen who want cheap grazing land. A land of promise to thousands of western sheepmen whose overcrowded ranges suggest the need of desher and greener fields for their flocks. A land of promise to the flocks that are banished from the forest reserves. A land of bright promise to ambitious dairymen who may find here green grasses and living springs in the midst of the finest dairy market fields of the continent, and the fruit grower who would plant his orchard and vines where nature pronounces the growth of the finest apples, pears, plums, cherries and smaller garden fruits. It is an especially promising country to the variety farmer who would follow rotative methods, the surest calling among men. I have seen along this St. Paul road no land too thin and sterile to grow

well cultivated fields that look like extended gardens, and though but 15 and 20 years removed from the primitive forests and stumps are worth to-day from \$40 to \$60 per acre. The farmers are prosperous, many of them affluent, and the pretty homes, fine barns, well kept roads, the public and private cemeteries, the splendid grain and vegetable crops and clover and timothy meadows, the herds of well bred horses and cattle, and fine school houses show a degree of rural spirit and progress rarely seen outside of the rich farm districts of the older states. It is quite surprising that this rich and prosperous farm district fronting upon Green Bay and neighboring to the prosperous cities of Marinette and Menominee, is supplemented by hundreds of thousands of acres of native woodland, cut-over land and plain lands where the work of

SETTLEMENT AND COLONIZATION

is now going forward at a surprising pace. Within the past year our old friends of the Skidmore Land Co. have sold to actual settlers near Porterfield on the Marinette branch, and Ellis Junction on the main line of The St. Paul Road, over 18,000 acres of new land upon which the work

of permanent improvement is now in gratifying progress. These lands embrace choice hardwood timber tracts, cut over pine lands and good reaches of open level plains, the latter well covered with grazing herbage and well suited for immediate occupancy by sheep and cattle men. The Skidmore people purchased 100,000 acres around and tributary to these railway stations two years ago and within that time have laid out and constructed 15 miles of public roads, making every portion of their new holdings easily accessible to the new settlers who begin life on their new farms under the most favorable conditions. The settlers themselves, who are mostly enterprising people from the middle states, show hearty appreciation for these advantages and are pushing the development of their new purchases with commendable nerve and enthusiasm.

At Porterfield, half a dozen miles southeast of Ellis

grain fields are most encouraging object lessons to the new settler. I have great respect for these wealthy land holders who instead of holding their thousands of acres on speculation, are, with commendable public spirit, colonizing them with a good class of people, thereby contributing to the wealth and material and social progress of the county. Their holdings are mostly in the central division of Marinette county, adjoining or neighboring the rich old farm districts and

WILL HAVE COMMANDING VALUE

when brought under cultivation by the new owners. This rich country, which is about as large as Rhode Island and ten times richer in agricultural and pastoral resources, has behind its rural wealth an urban population of 30,000 in the near by twin cities of Marinette and Menominee, and is easily destined to become the second most populous



Field of Clover and Timothy (New Seeding) on Farm in Marinette County.

Junction, Mr. W. H. Osborn began clearing and breaking his new 480-acre tract last year and has already comfortable buildings, 160 acres in cultivation to different crops which make a splendid showing, and has nearly 100 acres more burnt off and in readiness for the plow and this enterprising young settler surprised me by asserting that within two years he would have his entire 480 acres in cultivation, looking like an old farm and worth four times the purchase price. This wide-awake young gentleman is demonstrating in splendid fashion my contention that this new country is comparatively easy of settlement. The crops of oats, peas, barley, clover and potatoes I saw growing on his last fall's breaking are as fine as one may see in northern Illinois or Iowa and will make substantial revenue for their owner the first year of his occupancy. The four-year-old apple trees growing on an old patch of cleared land here, were bending to the ground with a burden of perfect fruit such as is rarely seen in older districts. In the 80,000 acres of new land still owned and now being colonized by the Skidmore people, one often sees a beautiful well cultivated farm sandwiched between fine tracts of wooded or cut-over land, and the orchards, meadows and

county in the state. It is bounded on the east by 100 miles of the Menominee river and drained centrally from north to south by the Peshtigo river and scores of tributaries and small streams, embraces a hundred clear lakes and literally thousands of springs, and, I finely, has at least

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRES OF OPEN COUNTRY

in the central and northern divisions, where there is room for a full thousand sheep and dairy farms or half as many ranches. In all this open country are almost limitless fields of rich grazing herbage untrdden except in few instances by insufficient bunches of village or settlers' cattle. The visitor rides over leagues of it and is seized with an uncontrollable desire to own the whole country and herd it over princely herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. Far better though is it for Marinette county and the Landless renters of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa that the Skidmore and other of its wealthy owners shall put it in partition to real settlers who alone can develop to the full its splendid pastoral and agricultural resources. I confess to a cordial liking of the Skidmore people for their hospitality and generous

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

treatment of the settlers and homebuilders who come to plant civilization in these virgin soils. Not an acre of all their splendid holdings is held in reserve, but every quarter or half section is consecrated to tillers of the soil and home-builders. It is very gratifying to visit the Polish and German settlers out in the Peshtigo river country and look over their fine grain fields, their big potato and pea patches, their comfortable homes and rich clover meadows. Not a stack of hay or grain outside, but all under cover and everywhere an air of thrift delightful to see. Every visitor to the Skidmore lands should make this drive out from Ellis Junction to the High Falls of the Peshtigo and look over a settlement whose people never learned to whittle dry goods boxes or cut coupons, but know to a dictum how to make model farms in a beautiful wilderness. The Skidmore people have an additional or supplementary tract of 15,000 acres

on pine logs, making wealth for the owners and a thrift for a village of 1,500 souls. The Wausaukeee river comes down from the northern hills in fine volume and the pretty school houses and homes, the busy stores, bank and shops, the electric light and telephone systems and a commanding high school building tell the story of a prosperous and progressive population. Hard by the town are some beautiful grain and dairy farms that would honor any of the older counties; there are sugar beet fields close on the village border that discount anything I have seen in lower Michigan, Nebraska or Colorado, but beyond these few pretty and fruitful farms and fields lies

A BEAUTIFUL WILDERNESS

of cut-over and burnt over land for 40 miles to the west and northwest, where the stumps are small and few, the



A 30-Acre June Planted Corn Field at Intervale Farm.

of very fine cut-over and hardwood timbered lands just across the Menominee river, in Menominee county, Mich., and their holdings as a whole offer as fine a field for the variety farmer, dairymen, fruit grower and sheep, goat and cattle rancher as one may find in the entire state of Wisconsin. If the reader would know more of these lands, their value, terms of sale, etc., he may do so by addressing The Skidmore Land Co., Tribune Building, Chicago, or Marinette, Wis. Four miles northward from Ellis Junction, at

MIDDLE INLET,

just on the border of the Skidmore tract, is a hardwood district running eastward to the Menominee river, and embracing 2,000 or 3,000 acres of well grassed stump land well suited to either mixed farming or grazing. The soil is a rich clay-loam here and the open country large enough for half a hundred small farms. Another run of four miles northward brings us the reader and I—to the bright and growing little town of

WAUSAUKEE,

where a twenty million capacity saw mill is still running

logs mostly burnt off, and the whole country more or less covered with grass and practically ready for the plow. A more tempting grazing district would be hard to find. The visitor is always in sight of lakes, brooks or springs and amazed to see leagues on leagues of unused grassland that would make up into model stock farms or

IDEAL SHEEP AND CATTLE RANCHES.

This country, over which the writer and "Shepherd Boy" rode with delightful senses for a half day, has grass enough to graze all the sheep in Wyoming, and the richest kind of browse for all the goats in Texas or New Mexico. It is made up of hills, valleys and miles of beautiful plains where the rancher could run 10,000 sheep and have them in sight of the dog or herder all the day long. Hon. H. P. Bird, the Wausaukeee lumberman and banker, is accredited with the ownership of 12,000 acres of this tempting grazing land, and most of it, I fancy, could be bought by sheepmen at reasonable prices, as Mr. Bird is friendly to the sheep industry and would favor settlement for that purpose. He has within half a dozen miles of town some abandoned

lumber camps that would make admirable winter quarters for the sheep or cattle rancher and will doubtless favor either enterprise, as he is a gentleman of marked public spirit and enterprise, to whom I am glad to refer the reader. Mr. A. W. Larson, the enterprising founder and manager of the Wausauke Telephone System, will also answer with pleasure any inquiries respecting this region, with which he is not only familiar but holds in very high esteem. A run of ten miles west on the Wausauke branch of the St. Paul road brings us to

ATHELSTANE,

in the heart of the beautiful "plains" country, bordering upon the Wausauke district above described. Athelstane is a new and unpretentious hamlet with one of the finest quarries of gray granite in the country, but it is the key to a very interesting colonization movement that promises

in extent and which the owners are fast transforming into ideal red top, alsike and timothy meadows.

THE CLOVER MEADOWS,

however, are the glory of Intervale, for they show how quickly the wild plains may be turned into fields of living green and made the basis for rotative farming and future productive wealth for these quick, warm and responsive sandy-loam soils. Mr. C. E. Rollins, the founder, owner and builder of these clover fields, has "found the philosopher's stone" which John Randolph interpreted to read "pay as you go," for the clover feeds the cattle and horses in winter, grazes them and the pigs in summer, enriches the land, inspires big crops and settles forever the agricultural possibilities and value of these open plains country lands. Mr. Rollins burns off and stumps a 20 or 40-acre tract for \$3 or \$4 per acre, including the plowing, sows to oats, wheat



Barns and Silos on Anson Eldred Co.'s Farm, Stiles, Wisconsin.

much to this northern country and has already demonstrated the value of this sandy-loam region for mixed farming, dairying, gardening and cattle raising. It is, moreover, the railway point for the Intervale Land Company, whose 1,200-acre

INTERVALE STOCK FARM

is not only the chief attraction of this beautiful open country, but the nucleus for a colony of enterprising settlers who have in the past three or four years built a good many pretty farm homes and opened out some very pretty farms in this cut-over and plains country. This farm is improve with an attractive home and a score of commodious out buildings for the housing of cattle, horses, hay, grain, etc., has 300 acres in cultivation to oats, corn, wheat, potatoes, turnips, cabbage, peas, clover, timothy and alsike and is really one of the most beautiful country places in this north region. The home, barns, sheds, stables and corrals are prettily disposed in second growth pine groves that have been grouped into a charming park and look down upon a low-lying natural meadow or intervale two or three and a

and peas, or plants to corn and potatoes, seed down to clover and alsike and the next year is grazing cattle and horses knee deep in a sea of crimson and purple and green or cutting two crops of clover hay. In either case his clover land becomes a garden, good for generous crops of any and everything thereafter planted. In company with Mr. Rollins and a lady visitor from Chicago, we inspected

A THIRTY-ACRE FIELD OF CORN

planted on new breaking in the middle of June and now on August 22d the corn from six to nine feet high and as heavily laden with ears as any I have seen in Illinois. They run 150 well bred cattle on this farm mostly Galloways and keep ten horses for saddle, road and farm service and have a herd of Poland-China pigs, and all that is wanted to complete and perfect the situation are flocks of sheep and Angoras. Seven hundred acres of the place are still under tribute to the wild grasses, the king of which is the renal "blue stem," which grows under the pines and oaks and in many places is dense enough to cut a good swath. The

farm is in the midst of

THE INTERVALE COLONY

which Col. Rollins has settled around the big farm in a sturdy and sociable fashion—some from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, and some from far Scandia and Germany, and it is most pleasant to see each and all of them catching the spirit of the enterprising founder of the colony. They build in groves or pretty lakeside places and have all caught the clover mania of the chief colonizer and that will soon enough make a colonial Eden of bloom and fruition. Col. Rollins is a Chicago newspaper man who finds time and inclination for frequent visits to the farm and colony, and is never so happy as when showing a home seeker over his Marinette county domain. A score or more of good families have built homes and are opening farms here

enlightened civilization for his wilderness domain. He holds not an acre back from settlement and leads the way to his wildwood Eden by planting in its midst an ideal country seat. A thousand times better, decent and more human than the land grabber who buys to hold, not sell, he is a civilizer and a rural organizer worth a 40-acre lot full of the cold-blooded landholders of this beautiful north country who have thousands of acres of these rich virgin soils, but not so much as a garden patch to sell. The Intervale Land Company at Intervale, Marinette Co., Wis., will tell you a thousand things about this country that I have not time or space to give, or Mr. C. E. Rollins, 918 Royal Insurance building, Chicago, who is a capital correspondent, will tell you all you want to know.

Messrs. Reed and Morton, 107 Dearborn street, Chicago, have for sale 15,000 acres of fine cut-over land, well suited



Summer Home near Crystal Falls.

some pretty school houses are well stocked with children during the school year and the Intervale postoffice has lately been opened. Mr. Rollins and the Intervale Land Co. have 20,000 acres in the Intervale colony and a little further out on the Peshtigo river, and their chief concern now is to settle a community of sheep and Angora farmers here and turn the colony into

A PASTORAL BEULAH-LAND.

And why not? Never a finer grazing field was warmed by the northern sunshine. Scores of clear lakes embed in this whole open plains and stump land region, running southward to Wausaukee, southwest to the Peshtigo and beyond, west twenty-eight miles and more to the great woods horizon and northwest thirty miles into the Low Mountain country. What a splendid field for colonization and for sheep and goat ranching! The brooks full of trout, the lakes alive with bass and pike and muskalonge, and the woods well stocked with deer and partridge. Mr. Rollins, like the Skidmores, is a good and generous colonizer and has deep pleasure in every new farm settled, every new home built and in every step toward a greater and

to sheep farming, and mostly located in the Peshtigo valley, Marinette county.

The Anson Eldred Lumber Co., located at Stiles, Oconto county, 26 miles south of Ellis Junction, are another big land holding concern that believe in selling and civilizing their thousands of acres of cut-over, burnt-over and heavily wooded lands rather than holding them for speculative purposes. Everything with these wealthy holders is for sale and a reasonable price put upon it. They have partially improved farms in Oconto and Shawano counties and can locate the new settler on a dairy farm, a sheep or cattle ranch, a truck or fruit farm and treat him well while he improves and is paying for it. They belong not to the land shark fraternity; but to the land civilizers of the Skidmore and Rollins kind who think more of developing and beautifying a new country than of consecrating it to moss-growing while the neighboring settler is enhancing its value. The Eldred people, too, take a strong hand in local farm improvement, and have at Stiles in full view of the St. Paul trains a large and highly cultivated dairy farm, creamy and a capacious silo for their model herd of 75 dairy cows. Their

lands are finely watered with springs, brooks and lakes and offer an inviting field to the settler. The immediate country around Stiles is fairly well settled with a good class of people and lands are rapidly advancing in value.

NORTHWARD FROM WAUSAUKEE,

up the main line of the St. Paul railway are Cedarville, Amber, Beecher Lake and Pembine, all active lumbering points from four to eight miles apart and all associated with good-sized districts of well grassed cut-over stump and plains land. At Pembine we cross the "Soo" line and fifteen miles northward have spanned the Menominee river and are high up on the Menominee iron range at

IRON MOUNTAIN,

in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We have passed the interminable grazing fields of Marinette county and are in a new world of rugged scenic grandeur where bold granite bluffs, wild rocky gorges and glens rapid rushing river and

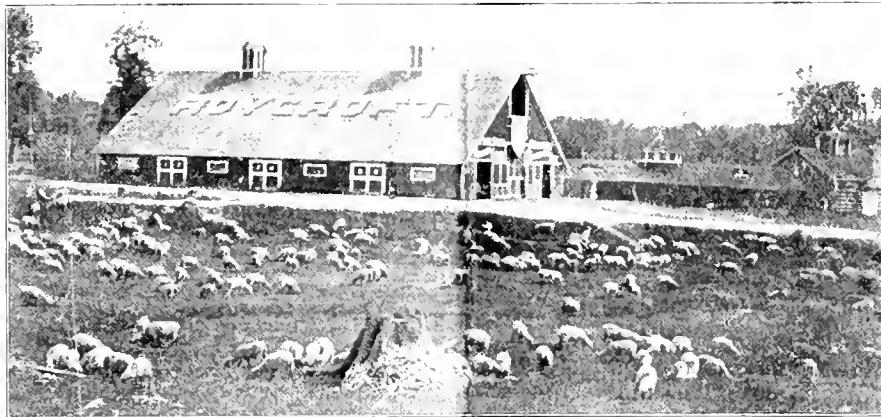
city, with the hope that some other day when the arbutus blooms again on these northern hills I may find here something better than a street carnival with a babel of vulgar tongues for a welcome. Northward twenty miles past Traders' Junction, Merriman, Granite Bluff, Randville and Sagola, each the nucleus for future farm and stock ranches where now are splendid reaches of maple, birch, basswood, cedar and hemlock woodland, brings us to

CHANNING

and the Ontonagon branch of the St. Paul road. Channing is a division station village of 200 or 300 people in the midst of a hardwood district of rich soil and there are in the surrounding cut-over lands some fine locations for summer grazing cattle, but the lands are scarcely high and rolling enough for sheep raising. Fifteen miles northwest of here, however, at

CRYSTAL FALLS

on the Crystal Falls branch of the St. Paul railway is a



W. S. Prickett's Flock and Barns at Sidnaw, Michigan.

clouds of smoke from a dozen iron mines that crown the neighboring hills mark the transition from the pastoral to the ideal and industrial. Here is a mining city of 10,000 people intensely industrial and commercial and evidently quite unconscious of the latent pastoral and agricultural elements of the surrounding country. The all-absorbing interest of the day and location is the mining and shipping of iron. Nothing else is thought of or dreamt of. The humblest street gamin tells you with characteristic local pride that Iron Mountain holds the largest iron mine in the world," but there isn't a man, woman or child in all this bright, buoyant, bustling, busy city that can tell you a blessed thing about where the open grazing fields are located, how many thousand acres of them, or how many sheep and cattle their neglected grasses will graze, or how large a rural population the magnificent maple woodland of Dickinson county will support. The sheep, Angora and cattle business is like a Greek text book to these delvers after the red and brown ores, and but for a chance meeting with Arthur Roebeck, the Marinette authority upon Upper Peninsula lands, I might have pocketed my chagrin and passed on to Iron county without knowledge of the fine reaches of pasture land a little to the west of Iron Mountain. Anyway here's my good-bye to the live in

vast open country that appeals to the stockman on account of its superior grazing and abundant water supply. Everywhere in this finely grassed cut-over country are springs, trout brooks, rivers, clear lakes and a dense growth of white and red clover, timothy and bluegrass. Judge Llewelling, a leading local attorney, estimates this open country at 200,000 acres, all within a radius of 15 miles of Crystal Falls and fit for immediate occupancy by sheep and cattle men. Most of this open district has been wooded with maple, birch, basswood, hemlock and pine and the soils are uniformly fertile and the entire district the finest of grass land. Mr. Chas. M. Rogers, the long-time register of deeds for Iron county, of which Crystal Falls is the capital, thinks this the finest grazing region in upper Michigan and though a natural dairy country with a number of very successful private dairies and creameries, believes it equally well adapted to sheep raising and says sheepmen would be cordially welcomed to its pastoral advantages. Mr. Rogers is a gentleman of wide travel, excellent judgment and withal is one of the most popular men in Iron county, whose opinions of the country would meet approval from every representative man here, and I am pleased to commend him to sheepmen who want further information of the county.

FROM MARINETTE TO ONTONAGON.

Crystal Falls is a lively and prosperous iron mining city of 4,000 or 5,000 people. It has in operation a dozen or more mines and bears in every feature the impress of the prosperous and progressive industrial town. It is prettily situated on Paint river and with the development of the pastoral and agricultural country that environs it, should easily grow into a city of 10,000 souls. My old lower Michigan friend, Dr. H. C. Kimball, who has lived here a dozen years or more, is delighted with the country and says it is the ideal country for climate, health, deer hunting and fishing. From Channing northward by the Ontonagon division of the St. Paul line, we pass a number of inviting grazing situations neighboring to Kelso, Ponca, Balsam, Amasa and Tunks stations, all located in fine hardwood sections and each with its complement of a thousand or two thousand acres of cut-over country. At

AMASA,

a busy little iron mining town of 1,000 or more people the grazing field covers 3,000 to 5,000 acres of open land well grown over with tame grasses, with neighboring beaver meadows where a thousand tons of blue joint hay could be cut for winter use. A number of deserted lumber camps offer ample winter shelter for stock and there is no end of running water. One of the most attractive grazing situations on the entire line is at

SIDNAW

in Houghton county, 25 miles north of Amasa. This bright little town of not more than 350 or 400 people is at the junction of the St. Paul and the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railroads. On the west and north for a dozen miles or more are good open sheep or cattle ranges with plenty of grass, dozens of trout brooks, scores of fine springs and lakes and both north and south of the village are beaver meadows where hundreds of tons of the best wild hay could be cut for the cost of harvesting. Here is located Mr. Walter S. Prickett's

ROYCROFT FARMS.

The handsome new buildings in rule shot of the station and 300 acres of highly cultivated lands lying on three sides of the village. Altogether Roycroft embraces a thousand or more acres, but the clean, stumpless fields, the beautiful clover and timothy meadows, the dozen miles of modern woven wire fence, the half-hundred acres of oats and peas just now being harvested, the model sheep barns and sheds, the 600 or 700 sheep ranging the pastures, the little flock of Angoras and the air of neatness and perfect order pervading the place tell how well the heroic and enthusiastic young proprietor has wrought here, better than any word of mine. The fame of this farm is as widespread as the beautiful peninsula and the name of its public spirited young master a household word from his old home in Marinette to Ontonagon, and from Duluth to the Soo. Walter Prickett came to these wilds, a lumberman's clerk, 15 years ago, and saw with clear vision a garden land when the timber and stumps were gone. He saved his wage, bought and sold land till he grew plenteous, and signalized his love of the country by rescuing from the wilds this beautiful Roycroft farm. He never cut much figure as a land grabber but has made enviable tame all over the peninsula as a land civilizer. He sometimes masses 10,000, 20,000 or 30,000 acres of land, but not for hoarding out of the reach of settlement, for it is passed to new holders in a week or month and the net proceeds go into farm improvements or some other channel where the public is the largest beneficiary. He never forgets his best of mothers, never overlooks the unfortunate, turns his pocketbook over to every call of sympathy or charity, leads in every good work for the advancement of his town and has boundless pleasure in making blades of grass grow where none grew before. His boundless energy, cultivated tastes, and splendid working gifts are on every lineament of this model Roycroft farm which is easily the premier country place of the Northern Peninsula of Michigan. There are 300 tons of the finest hay in his barns and green cut oat and pea hay in his ricks and barracks, and I venture the prediction that every

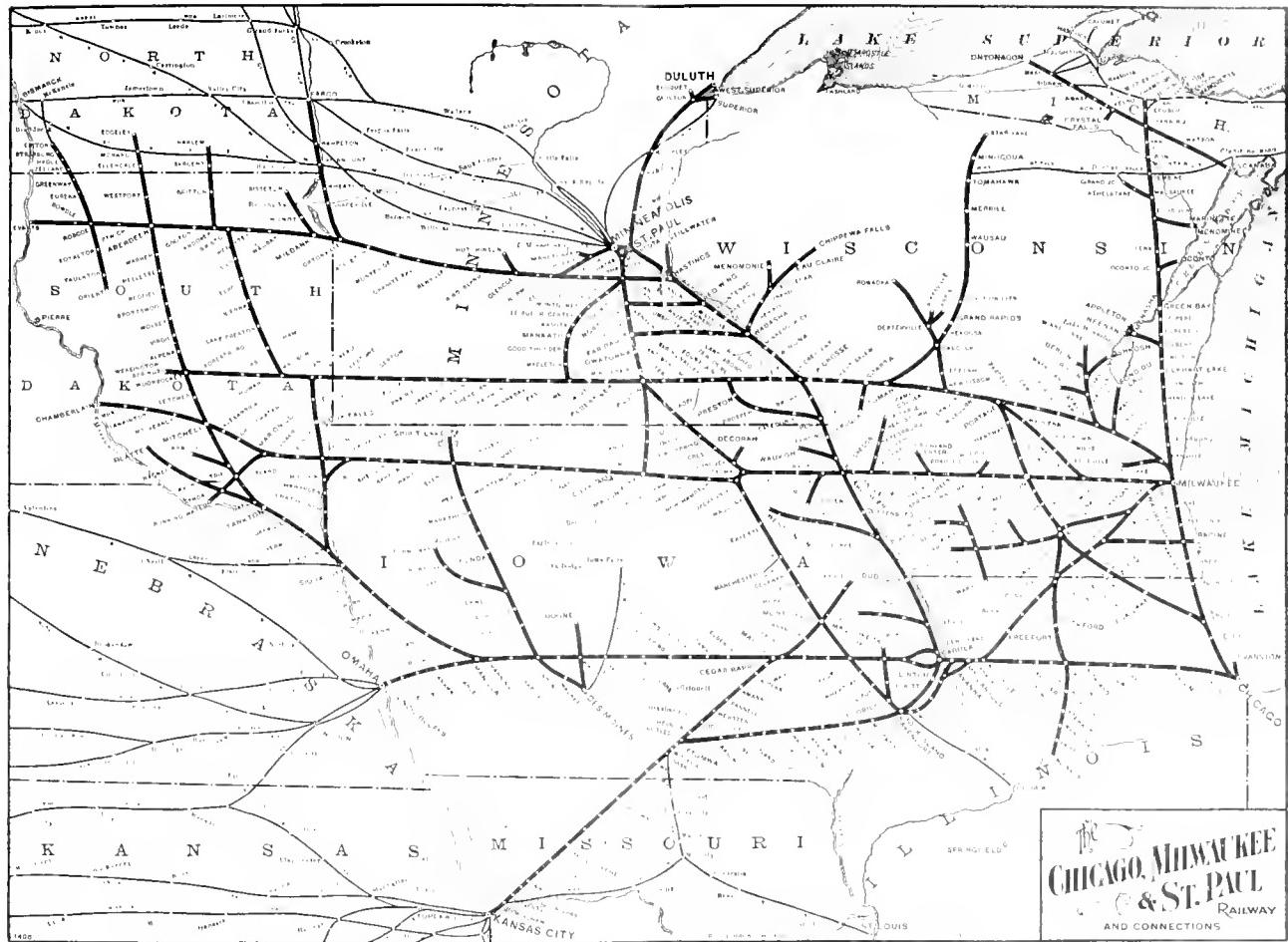
pound of it will find its market through the medium of fat sheep, lambs or steers. It is a pleasure to find in these northern woods a man who values progressive husbandry above dollars and whose patriotic interest in his farm, town and county is stronger than his love of gold. Mr. Prickett lately sold 37,000 acres of land for colonization and has more to sell at a price that will soon enough sell it. There are several thousand acres of fine clay-loams to the south and southwest of Sidnaw that are very desirable for general farming and in every direction choice tracts of cut-over land where abandoned lumber camps make desirable headquarters for sheep or cattle ranching.

Northward along the St. Paul line to Pori, a distance of 20 miles, the country presents a continuous open range for a good distance back from the track, and grass and water is abundant. Eight miles further on at Mass City there are 2,000 acres or more of fine cut-over country with abounding herbage. At Rockland, ten miles further north, we are in an old and well developed farm country of pretty homes and fine old orchards—a country that has little unfenced range to tempt the nomadic grazier, and another run of ten miles brings us to

ONTONAGON

and the greatest of fresh water seas. We are in the copper range here or rather beyond it and feel the lake influence that tempers and modifies the climate of the whole northern peninsula, making it the most bearable and enjoyable winter climate of any equally high latitude in the world. There are largely lumbering, fishing and copper mining interests centered here. Some of them friendly and some not so friendly to my plan for pastoralizing the cut-over grass lands of Ontonagon county and the whole peninsula. One big lumber firm was sure this was "no sheep country" and thought "better of hemlock trees than sheep" anyway and made me aware that for once I was on alien ground and in an atmosphere of subarctic chilliness that quite eclipsed the chill of the lake breeze on that bleakest of days. But in agreeable contrast with the chill of the cool blooded sheep-haters was the warm and kindly greeting of Thornton A. Green, the genial and public spirited young manager of C. V. McMillan & Bro., every acre of whose large timber land holdings were offered to actual settlers as fast as cleared. These wealthy lumbermen have been active colonizers of their cut-over lands in Wisconsin and successful town builders, too, their prosperous home town in the Badger state bearing their honored name, and it came like a gleam of sunshine in a stormy day to hear the live and up-to-date manager say, "Yes, I am glad to meet you. Anything to build up Ontonagon county. Would like to show you over our 22,000 acres of green hardwood timber land. We are just starting in here and will cut over a thousand acres a year I suppose, and every acre will be sold to settlers as fast as cut off. Some of it is sold before the logging is completed. Why should we hold these rich farm lands and let them grow up to brush when they will do somebody good for home building, raising children, cattle, sheep, clover, orchards. No, sir, we stand in with the people every time and not the land grabbers. Other lumbermen and big land holders may refuse to sell, but the McMillans never. Every acre is for sale as fast as we get to it. These lands belong to the people, in a way—are a part of their heritage and they must have a chance at them. The lumberman is a fool to hoard his lands when the timber is gone, as the miser hoards his gold. We should all take stock in the public good, help build up Ontonagon and Ontonagon county. Don't hurry away, Colonel, or will you come again in the morning when the storm is over and the sun is shining. Remember me to Messrs. Vaughn, Hastings and Tyler and tell them Thornton Green is with them for the new dispensation in the Northern Peninsula."

This is the kind of talk I had longed to hear, and three weeks later I am felicitating myself over the meeting with a live lumberman whose lands were all for sale. And now as I am saying a regretful good-bye to this beautiful northland I find myself instinctively lifting my derby in deference to Thornton Green and Walter Prickett and to C. E. Rollins, the Skidmores and Anson Eldred—the men who are making sunshine for the homebuilders of the north country.



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A Great Country for the Flock-
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Goat Raising in Northern Michigan.

BY COLONEL L. D. BURCH,
EDITOR "AMERICAN SHEEP BREEDER," CHICAGO

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